

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ANGELINA COLLEGE LADY ROADRUNNERS FOR CLAIMING NJCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to recognize the incredible 2013–2014 Angelina College Lady Roadrunner Softball team members who merit congratulations for their success, both on and off the field. This group of extraordinary women attained for their school the coveted title of NJCAA Division I National Softball Champions, an accomplishment which also represents the first national title for Angelina College.

In addition, the Lady Roadrunners became the first team from Texas to win the NJCAA Division I World Series since the tournament's inception in 1977.

From start to finish, this team had to overcome adversity at every turn—including mechanical malfunctions, bad weather and sleep deprivation. But on the field, this team exemplified what determination could accomplish.

The team lost in game one of the championship tournament, but the Lady Roadrunners rallied behind their defeat and triumphed in game two over Central Florida with a score of eight to five. The team finished out their season with forty-two wins, sixty-two homeruns and a national title.

Off the field and in the classroom, this group of women illustrate that determination can translate into success no matter the arena. These young women finished their championship season with a total grade point average for the team of three point three, landing them an appearance on the Academic All-American list.

It is my privilege to honor team members Madalyn Sumrall, Trina Deyo, Katelyn Barker, Kaylon Morvant, Kristin Boulware, Gia Johns, Taylor Harper, Shelby Bruner, Sage Martinez, Kassie James, Sidney Allen, Kayleigh Roy, Meranda Rodriguez, Samantha Moore, Melissa Boland, Ashley Ingle, and Tessa Thomas.

The team undoubtedly thrived under the skillful leadership of Head Coach Mark Mattson, Assistant Coach Barbara Mattson, Student Trainer Bridget Chandler, Athletic Secretary Debbie Mareno, Sports Information Director Gary Stallard, Athletic Director Guy Davis, and Angelina College President Dr. Larry Phillips.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2014 NJCAA Division I National Champions, the Angelina College Lady Roadrunner Softball Team. Their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING ATTORNEY WILL ELLIS PITTMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Attorney Will Ellis Pittman.

Attorney Pittman was born and raised in Tutwiler, MS. Mr. Pittman is 51 years old. He is the owner and managing member of Pittman & Associates, PLLC law firm in Clarksdale, Mississippi where he also serves as the first African-American County Prosecutor for Coahoma County. Attorney Pittman also serves as the board attorney for the Tunica County Board of Supervisors and is the first African-American to represent the Tunica County Board of Supervisors. Attorney Pittman is recognized amongst family, his community, and his colleagues as a man of wisdom, service, a generous spirit, and passion. He regularly attends and serves on the finance committee of the Galena Missionary Baptist Church in Tutwiler, Mississippi which he grew up in and joined at eight years of age.

Ellis attended and graduated from public high school in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. After earning his high school diploma, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While in the Marine Corps, Ellis married his high school sweetheart, and they had two (2) children. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Ellis returned to his home town in Tutwiler.

However, he was unable to find employment anywhere in the delta area. Ellis returned to work and earned a living on the plantation in Tallahatchie County where he grew up. Ellis worked six (6) sometimes seven (7) days a week to provide food, shelter, and the bare necessities for his family. He always knew that if given the opportunity, he would provide them with a better way of life.

After working one full year and saving every penny that he could, Ellis departed for Dallas, Texas where he obtained a job with a janitorial service, cleaning grocery stores at night. Within two months Ellis saved enough funds for a deposit and first months' rent on an apartment. He then returned to Mississippi to get his wife and child and they returned to Dallas, Texas. Within six months, the store at which Ellis was employed took notice of his hard work and daily attendance and the store manager offered him a job as an apprentice baker that provided health insurance, dental, and vision benefits for both him and his family. With this break, Ellis used the extra earnings to provide a better place for his family to stay. Within six months, Ellis had worked his way from an apprentice baker to a journeyman baker and was able to provide his family with the kind of things that he had always dreamed of having.

Although he excelled in his employment, Ellis realized that in order to do more for his

family he would have to obtain a college education. At the same time, Ellis desired to return home to be with his elderly father who became ill. So, he applied for and was hired with the Mississippi Department of Corrections as a correctional officer trainee.

He then made plans to attend Mississippi Valley State University to obtain a college degree. Prior to applying to Mississippi Valley State University, the Pittman's home caught on fire in which Ellis received second and third degree burns over a large portion of his body. His wife received severe burns as well. After a month, she passed away from the injuries she sustained from the fire. Ellis remained in the Greenville Burn Center for a month and half before he was released. After a short period of time, he returned to his place of employment at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The home that he had purchased for his family had burned down, so the Department of Corrections provided him with a house on the grounds for him and his two minor sons to live.

At this point, he made the decision not to attend Mississippi Valley State University due to the drive because he would have to commute. Being a single parent and still having to work, Ellis applied to Delta State University which was closer to where he was living at the penitentiary and he could make the daily commute. He commuted five days a week for three years until he graduated from Delta State University with a degree in criminal justice and political science.

Prior to graduation from Delta State University, Ellis applied to law school at Mississippi College, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He was accepted for admission at all three law schools. However, he chose to attend the University of Mississippi—School of Law due to the financial aid available for African-American applicants. After obtaining his law degree and license to practice law, Ellis returned to the Mississippi Delta from Memphis, Tennessee and opened Pittman Law Office in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1996 where he continues to practice to this day.

Ellis has given countless young lawyers, that have recently graduated with no experience and unable to find a job, a position at his law office to give them a start. He realized that most people will do well if given the chance which he learned from personal experience when he needed someone to give him a chance. There has not been a time when a newly admitted lawyer came to Ellis looking for job and was turned down for employment.

Ellis' practice has included representing countless individuals in cases for excessive force, employment discrimination, criminal defense, family law, as well as personal injury and wrongful death.

Attorney Will Ellis Pittman's work ethic, passion, dedication, dependability, and service have made him synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best, attorney around. At the end of the day, Ellis is recognized for his service to God, his family, his country, his community, and the people that seek his help.

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